



NIES AT ITS BEST

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
 Veterinary Services (VS)
 National Import Export Services (NIES)

Animal Products Permitting and Negotiation Services (APPNS)

December 2017 Quarterly Edition, Volume 4

Our Mission

- Safeguard the health of domestic livestock and poultry by inspecting and quarantining animals and animal products to mitigate animal disease risk through risk assessments and sound science
- Facilitate trade, promote safe movement, negotiate science-based import and export requirements, and collaborate with other agencies and departments to remove technical barriers to trade
- Serve as the preeminent resource for safeguarding the nation's food supply from agricultural select agents and toxins
- Cooperate and collaborate with international animal health standard setting organizations to develop science-based health measures for safe trade
- Utilize science-based performance measures and a focus on consistent, standard practices carried out by a responsive workforce

What Is An Animal Product?

Any material derived from the body of an animal. Examples are fat, meat, skin, organs, blood, milk, eggs, and lesser known products such as rennet, gelatin, and rendered animal meals.



Contact Us

For **permit applications or status requests** related to animal products or by-products, please contact us via email at animalproducts.application@aphis.usda.gov. For faster assistance, remember to include permit or application numbers in your email.

For **questions** related to animal products or by-products, please email us at asknies.products@aphis.usda.gov. We will respond within 48 business hours.

If email is not convenient, please feel free to contact us using the information below:

4700 River Road, Unit 40
 Riverdale, MD 20737
Fax: (301) 734-8226
Tel: (301) 851-3300, Option 1

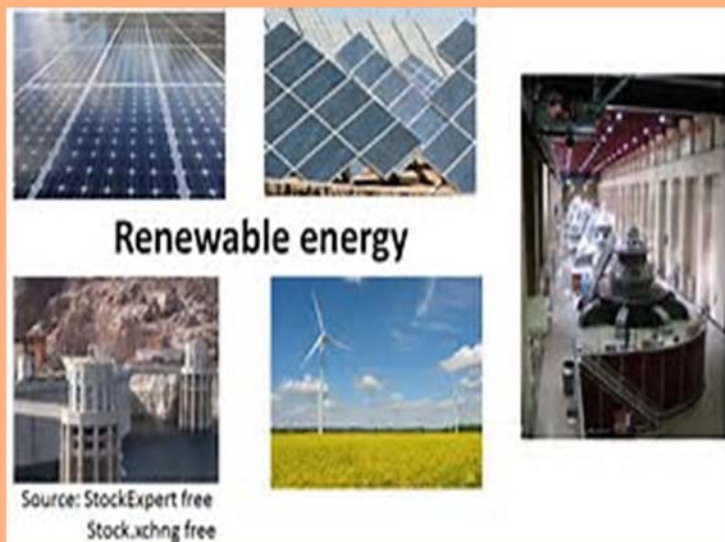
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NIES Is Leading in the Push for New Sources of Renewable Energy

NIES met recently met with members of the biodiesel industry to discuss the importation of used cooking oil, tallow, and other animal fats for the production of renewable hydrocarbon diesel and biodiesel fuel. This meeting was an excellent opportunity for NIES to engage with industry for better understanding of the product and its intended use. NIES frequently meets with members of industry for better communication on trade, understanding of the industry and their business processes, and aids in policy making for regulated animal products. We encourage and welcome industry to contact our office for face to face visits to stay abreast of APHIS policy changes, discuss import/export requirements, and new products.





WORK AROUND THE WORLD

Gaining Market Access for U.S. Agricultural Commodities

Azerbaijan

October 17 After nearly two years of follow up, APHIS has received official recognition by Azerbaijan's Ministry of Agriculture provided a letter dated September 28th 2017, informing that Azerbaijan recognizes the OIE negligible risk status for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy of the United States.

Taiwan

October 30 – November 8 APHIS VS NIES and APHIS International Services along with the National Renderer's Association, organized and accompanied delegates from Taiwan's Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine (BAPHIQ) on a systems audit of U.S. poultry and porcine rendering facilities. The audit was intended to give BAPHIQ a general overview of how U.S. rendering facilities operate and are regulated and was part of a continuing effort to gain BAPHIQ's acceptance of the Porcine Poultry Origin Verification Programs respectively. These programs would establish a systems based approach for approval of facilities to export rendered poultry and porcine commodities to Taiwan, in which APHIS would inspect and approve facilities on BAPHIQ's behalf. A total of 8 facilities and one laboratory were visited during the audit. BAPHIQ will complete their final report within three months, and will be in contact with APHIS regarding next steps to move forward with both programs.

Japan

November 6 - 7 APHIS Veterinary Services and APHIS International Services participated with the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), and the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) in meetings with the Japanese government regarding criteria for export of

U.S. ovine and caprine meat to Japan. These exports had been prohibited by Japan since bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was first detected in the United States. During the call, APHIS and Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) tentatively agreed to the draft protocol. However, Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare (MHLW) insisted that they also must agree to certain aspects of the protocol. Because this involves public health, MHLW concerns must be addressed by FSIS with the assistance of FAS. Once that is complete, USDA and MAFF are expected to finalize the animal health protocol that was the primary focus of these meetings, and then begin finalization of certificates to allow a resumption in exports.

Ukraine

November 7 APHIS notified the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) that effective November 13, 2017, certification of exports of poultry meat to Ukraine from the State of Tennessee could be resumed. This market is valued at \$5M per year.



WORK AROUND THE WORLD

Gaining Market Access for U.S. Agricultural Commodities

NIES meets with SAGARPA (Mexico)

November 8 In our continuance of providing superior customer service, NIES Animal Product Import Director Dr. Lisa Dixon and APHIS IS Post met with SAGARPA (Mexico) to follow up on NIES acknowledgement of their Negligible risk for BSE and to discuss changes in animal health attestations for health certification for certain commodities. SAGARPA was given an update on the language changes that were being made by NIES on those import permits for blood and blood product, primarily Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS). SAGARPA was very pleased with the courtesy conference call and expressed their gratitude in working together to facilitate trade between our countries. Moving forward, other commodities have been identified that these changes will need to be implemented in which NIES will work closely with SAGARPA to ensure all language is suitable and acceptable by all parties involved.

Brazil

November 8 NIES Animal Product staff met with the Agricultural Attaché for the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture. NIES discussed the recent Brazilian government restructuring and the resulting difficulty for exporters to obtain export certification for animal products exported from Brazil. The Agricultural Attaché indicated he would be able to provide APHIS with a list of certifying agencies and commodities certified so that APHIS can provide guidance to stakeholders. NIES also discussed recent communication regarding the standardization of certificates for the export of pet food/chews/treats

and rendered ingredients for animal consumption. NIES discussed the Approved Establishment (AE) Program, the AE Business Process Improvement Project, and how to import unmitigated pet chew/treats ingredients from Brazil for the manufacture of pet chews/treats at an AE.

India

November 13 APHIS Veterinary Services hosted a meeting between multiple USG agencies and India for negotiations regarding certificates to facilitate trade in poultry commodities from the United States to India. Certificates discussed included commodities such as; feathers, meat, eggs, processed products, day old chicks, and hatching eggs. APHIS finalized a bilaterally agreed upon certificate for the trade of feathers and headway was made on several other certificates. The meeting preceded a four day systems audit of US veterinary infrastructure as it pertains to surveillance and response for avian influenza. The audit will include visits to the National Veterinary Services Lab and the Georgia Poultry Network, National Animal Health Laboratory Network lab for discussions with VS personnel and State Animal Health Authorities, as well as visits with industry stakeholders as various poultry production and slaughter facilities to demonstrate the robustness of the US poultry infrastructure.



“To Permit or Not To Permit...That is the Question”

From the BSE Comprehensive Rule in 2014 to the current policy change for low risk or exempted products, you may have seen some changes in the issuance of import permits for certain animal products and by-products.

Through risk assessments and review of scientific data, NIES is identifying products that no longer require an import permit and may be imported with verification documents such as foreign government issued health certification, manufacturer/producer/shipment statements, ingredient lists, commercial labeling, etc. Identifying these low risk or exempted products allows NIES to focus more on those high risk and restricted commodities and helps to streamline the import process by not placing burden on the importer for applying and paying for an import permit. Explanation letters are being issued with new import requirements for eligible new and renewal applications that fall under this policy.

We do know this may be a big change for some of our stakeholders and permittees, but as we move towards more use of health certificate electronic certification and the use of the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) system for the “one trade window”, these changes will help to make the importing process much easier.

Some importers may experience issues with obtaining the proper health certification from the exporting country/region, please contact our office and let us know so we can provide further assistance at 301-851-3300 option 1.

If you have additional questions about importing animal products and by-products, please submit your questions to AskNIES at asknies.products@aphis.usda.gov.

For more information on products that do not require an import permit, please visit the following website links:

NIES Guidelines for Importation: [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-permits/ct animal imports nopermit](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-permits/ct%20animal%20imports%20nopermit)

Non-permitting of Low risk or exempted animal products: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/import/list-of-low-risk-and-exempted-animal-origin-ingredients-and-products.pdf

NIES Wants You to Know.....

Q1: Can I have multiple permittees on an import permit?

ANS: All permits are to have only one name listed as the permittee. A permit may have multiple addresses BUT only if they are associated with the same business or corporation that will be listed on the permit. Importers can list the multiple addresses, associated with the same business, but it is not necessary that each address have a permittee name associated with it. However, the permittee is still solely responsible for the materials even if sent to another location under the same company name.

Q2: How do I request an amendment to my current import permit?

ANS: If you have Level 2 e-Authentication status, you may apply online to AMEND the existing import permit using the ePermits system. For your convenience, here is a link to the online permitting system: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/permits/.

Otherwise, submit your request for the AMENDMENT on your company letterhead with a copy of the current veterinary import permit. Permit amendment requests must be submitted on the letterhead of the U.S. permittee or their U.S. representative. If your amendment involves a substantive change, such as a new exporter/shipper/manufacture, change in the exported material, change in the intended use, or change in permittee, be sure to include an updated permit application, VS Form 16-3. (If the material is a cell culture or product of cell culture, include updated VS Forms 16-3 **and** 16-7.) Please note that amendments do not change the validity period of the permit; the expiration date remains the same. To extend the permit, you must apply for a renewal (with or without changes).

Q3: How do I renew my current import permit?

ANS: Renewals can be submitted as early as 6 weeks prior to the expiration of the existing permit. Although the renewal may be issued prior to the expiration of the existing permit, the “start date” of the renewed permit will be after the expiration of the existing permit (e.g., the current permit is valid 11/15/2016 – 11/15/2017 and the renewed permit will be valid 11/16/2017 – 11/16/2018). Renewal requests can be submitted on-line via our ePermits system if you are e-authenticated or submitted by email to animalproducts.application@aphis.usda.gov.

If there are any changes in the renewal application or if you wish to request changes for the renewed permit, be sure to note these in the appropriate section(s) of the renewal application and/or in an attachment to the renewal application. We also recommend that if your permit has expired, please DO NOT ship material until you receive your renewed permit.

NIES Wants You to Know.....

(cont.)

Q4: Is it possible to have my permit application expedited? I have a shipment ready to be exported today.

ANS: Unfortunately, we do not expedite permit applications. We recommend you plan ahead and submit your permit applications in a timely manner. Additionally, you should NOT ship material until you apply for and receive your import permit.

Q5: How do I obtain a copy of my permit?

ANS: In order to obtain a copy of your import permit, the permittee or identified designee must submit to our office an original letter requesting the copy of the import permit (include permit #). This letter must be on official company letterhead and signed by the permittee. These requests can be sent by email to animal-products.application@aphis.usda.gov.

Q6: I need to export animal by-products from the United States to another country. What do I need to do?

ANS: To export your product, please contact your local USDA VS Service Center to assist you with the documentation, certification, and any questions. To locate their contact information go to our website and type into your browser www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport

Scroll down to **what are you EXPORTING from the United States?**

Click on the third link International Products Export Regulations (I-Regs). In the second paragraph click on the link “Veterinary Services Service Center” to see the contact information for your state.

Q7: How do I obtain a health certificate for my line of animal products so that we can export them out of the country?

ANS: To obtain export certification for your product, please contact your local USDA VS Service Center to assist you with the documentation, certification, and any questions. To locate their contact information go to our website and type into your browser www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport

Scroll down to **what are you EXPORTING from the United States?**

Click on the third link International Products Export Regulations (I-Regs). In the second paragraph click on the link “Veterinary Services Service Center” to see the contact information for your state.

NIES Wants You to Know.....

(cont.)

Q8: How can I find out the requirements to export a product to another country?

ANS: To review specific requirements based on country go to our website and type into your browser www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport

Scroll down to **what are you EXPORTING from the United States?**

Click on the third link International Products Export Regulations (I-Regs).

Scroll down and click on the Animal Products drop down box and select the country to review the products listed.



Do I need a permit?

ATTENTION ALL CUSTOMERS!

In the very near future, NIES will be retiring the ePermits system in favor of CARPOL, a newer, more customer friendly system. However, to experience all the benefits and features of the new system, we strongly recommend that you become e-Authenticated as early as possible. The new system requires customers to be a Level-2 subscriber in order to retrieve even the simplest of items, such as finished permits. **Please don't delay; become eAuthenticated today!**

To apply for a USDA e-Authentication account, please visit our website at :

www.eauth.usda.gov



Application Fees to import an animal or animal byproduct into the United States are as follows:

"But, They're Holding My Shipment....."

In striving to make our website more user friendly for our customers, and streamline the On Hold process, NIES has issued updated guidance on our website. You can view the guidance at the following link:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-permits/ct_ah_permits_onhold

Application	Fee
New Application	\$150
Renewal Application	\$97
On-Hold Applications	\$565
Amendments	\$75
Fetal Bovine Permits	\$512

Payment for services rendered is considered a processing fee (non-refundable) and does not guarantee permit approval or shipment release